

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING TONER LEVEL IN
ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT ENGINES**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The toner in the toner cartridge is determined by taking each of the rasterized images output by the RIP and evaluating the pixel levels over the surface thereof. The average value is determined as a percentage of the maximum toner that can be applied to the page. This is then subtracted from a toner value and a remaining toner level determined. Further, all pages of the rasterized document can be evaluated to predetermine the toner level after printing. If this falls below a predetermined minimum, printing is inhibited for that document.